GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
FUNCTIONING OF PHCS IN RURAL AREAS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to mass migration of Doctors to Metropolitan cities, the rural health system has been badly affected and the Primary Health Centres are not functioning effectively in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Primary Health Centres in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(c) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 452 FOR 24.4.2002

(a) & (b) Government is aware of the gaps and shortages in the availability of trained health care providers in the primary health infra-structure in rural areas. Often, the Medical officer/specialists/trained health care providers are reluctant to serve in far-flung remote rural areas. Recruitment and postings of health personnel in health care institutions is the responsibility of respective state governments. However, this Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been advising the state governments from time to time to see to it that vacancies are filled up on priority basis.

(c) Government are taking steps to help State Governments to improve the functioning of primary health care institutions in the country:

(i) Under the State Health System Projects, the Community Health Centres and District Hospitals are being upgraded and better equipped so that quality of care in the provisioning of health services to people in rural and backward areas, receives a thrust.

(ii) The Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, provides financial assistance, especially towards repairs and renovation of the public health infra-structure, purchasing of drugs and essential consumables, and towards contingencies.

(iii) Area Development Projects are also being implemented with financial assistance from external agencies for strengthening of health and family welfare infrastructure. One of the main activities of area projects includes construction of buildings for sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres.

(iv) Under the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, the following steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health services in the country.

- Major Civil Works are sanctioned for the repair/construction of Operation Theatre/Labour Room

- Provision of equipments/medicine for emergency obstetrics care at selected first referral units.

- Financial assistance for making contractual appointments/hiring of Anaesthetists/Gynaecologists/Safe Motherhood consultants/Staff Nurses/Lab. Technician/Additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) etc.

- Skill based in-service training for capacity building of Doctors, ANMs and other health functionaries.

Efforts are also being made to increase the outreach of health care services through Parivar Kalyan Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) camps etc.

(v) In order to facilitate the preparation of area specific programme with special emphasis on states lagging behind in containing population growth to manageable limit, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted. The Groupinvolves voluntary associations, community organisations and Panchayati Raj Institutions to achieve its aim. It will also explore the possibility of expanding the scope of social marketing contraceptive in a manner that makes them easily accessible even while raising awareness level.